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ENTERTAINMENT / D4

**Australia fires
kill 131; dozens
reported missing**

**San Miguel Corp.
eyes P48-B
water venture**

**Reds target US
troops in war
games in Capiz**

**Choose your
Valentine show: RJ,
Willie Nep, et Cetera**

Solon says nuke power just a glorified stove

By Philip C. Tobias

TALK ABOUT A HIGHER POWER TO FIRE up a "glorified stove."

With three Catholic bishops arrayed against him, Pap. Mark Caguioa yesterday invoked Pope Benedict XVI and the Bible in his campaign to have the north-

SOLON SAYS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

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P18

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P145-M jackpot lures big lotto crowd today

By Julie M. Aurelio

JO GARCIA, 31, HAS NEVER PLACED A bet for the 5/40 Super Lotto in his entire life, but decided to try his hand at the game of chance as he watched down his choice number yesterday afternoon.

"I've never played it, so I was too intimidated by the numbers. I didn't know how to

P145 JACKPOT

WB witnesses named

Solons play key role in rigging

By Christine O. Arendale

EXCERPTS FROM A World Bank report on the purported rigged bidding of projects it funds in the country showed that a lawmaker who appointed the winner before the bidding could get up to 20 percent of the project cost from the contractor.

The excerpts, which a senator furnished the media, also identified some of the informants who detailed the collusion among contractors.

As earlier reported, some of the informants implicated the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo and politicians and government officials in rigging the bidding of projects under Phase One of the P33-billion National Roads Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP).

Informants were split yesterday as to whether to go with the proposal of Sen. Miriam Defensora Santiago to issue Fast Conference Law No. 9894, Arroyo from the Senate inquiry on Thursday and instead issue a law to deposit from him.

Among the informants were a certain Ma Wee Qing, 56, Koo King, general manager of Hongkong's Maids Agency, and Ma, chief executive officer

WORLD BANK



UP THE DOWN-ECONOMY President Macapagal-Arroyo uses the escalator on her way to the opening of the 9th e-Services Global Sourcing Conference and Exhibition held at the SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia, Pasig City, on Monday. Behind her is SM Prime Holdings Inc. president Ramon Sy.

50,000 'green collar' workers needed-GMA

By Christine V. Eguerra and Kristine L. Alon

WANTED: NURSES IN THE provinces or "green collar" workers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the job offerings for people wary of losing their jobs as a result of the global financial crisis during a webcast last night in Malacanan Palace.

Applications are now being accepted for the "Nurses Assigned to Rural Areas" (NARS), a new government program that will send at least five nurses to each of the 1,000 poorest towns in the country, Macapagal said in her speech.

Some 36,000 "energy independence and environment jobs" also await workers, she said.

Moreover, some 6,000 short-term jobs are available in government agencies under the P60-million poverty mapping project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The agency has been identifying areas that badly need government assistance, including employment and mobility.

"A tight economy should prompt people to unite for greater mobility and harmony and working together, not

NORM GREEN



A PROTESTOR displays his hands during a rally at the Department of Labor and Employment in Manila on Monday.



AN INJURED overseas Filipino worker covers her face upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Saudi Arabia on Monday.

JACOB REYNOLDS

Layoffs, bankruptcies rise as markets await US stimulus

TOKYO—AUTO GIANT NISSAN announced plans on Monday to slash 20,000 jobs worldwide as a result of the global downturn, which has also forced the closure of half of China's toy makers and pushed France into recession.

As evidence of the world's worst economic crisis piled high, US President Barack Obama pressed the Senate to approve his \$627-billion stimulus package, warning of a "catastrophe" if the rescue plan is delayed further.

Collapsing demand in much of the rich world has hit hard export-driven economies such as Japan and China, prompting firms to slash production, cut jobs or completely shut down.

"The global auto industry is in trouble. Nissan is no exception," Nissan chief executive

Carlos Ghosn said as he announced plans to shed 20,000 jobs worldwide and forecast an annual net loss of \$2.6 billion for Japan's No. 3 car maker.

Agency data showed corporate bankruptcies in the world's

second-largest economy rising 16 percent to a six-year high last month. According to Tokyo Shoko Research, the number of bankruptcies among listed Japanese companies has reached a record high for any

LAYOFFS

Bangko Sentral says organized syndicate led Legacy Group

By Michael K. Rosas

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas (BSP) yesterday said the banks under the Legacy Group was led by an organized syndicate that gathered money from depositors into attractive

promotions, siphoned off the money, and fraudulently closed up the computer books.

"We are not dealing here with the end of business reversal, global financial turmoil, or even

regulatory harassment as falsely claimed by Colorado Sen. Angelo and his allies," BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espinola Jr. said in a briefing on the Legacy Group at the House of Representatives yesterday.

"Rather, we are dealing here

with an organized syndicate that from Day One was created to exploit human nature, and walk into the legal, regulatory, and enforcement framework of our banking and financial system," Espinola added.

It is that with members of the

press before he appeared at the House hearing, Espinola said and staff explained the operation of the Legacy bank, which he said was uncovered following investigation by the BSP's bank supervision division that he heads.

Espinola said the Legacy

Group gradually increased its network of banks by investing in or buying undercapitalized banks. The Legacy Group targeted banks that virtually had no choice but to accept a new investor just to keep operating.

BANGKO

Congress OK of baseline bill expected next week

By Christine O. Arendale

CONGRESS IS SET TO RAISE the baseline bill by next week after a bicameral conference committee agreed yesterday to adopt the Senate proposal that includes disputed items in the Bush China law in the national security.

The expected action by Congress would pave the way for the bill's signing into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The country has until May 13 to come up with a baseline bill in accordance with the United

Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The instrument lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order governing all uses of the ocean and their resources.

But getting the nod of the members of the bicameral conference committee on the controversial exclusion of the potentially self-rich specialists did not come easy, according to Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

"We had an argument the whole morning," said Enrile.

CONGRESS OK



FORMER Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant and bluesman queen Alison Krauss pose with their Grammys at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Ex-Led Zeppelin singer cops 5 Grammy Awards

LOS ANGELES—FORMER LED Zeppelin singer Robert Plant received a "whole lotta love" at the Grammy Awards on Sunday winning five prizes including album of the year for an acclaimed collaboration with bluesman queen Alison Krauss.

The 60-year-old musician, crowned rock stardom in the golden-haired, bare-chested singer for one of the biggest bands of the 1970s, was one of several British artists to take center stage at the music industry's top honors.

Plant's other competitors included rock band Coldplay, which won three awards, including song of the year; 20-year-old rockers Adele, who won a pair including best new artist; and Welsh newswoman Duffy, who was honored for pop vocal album.

"I'm bewildered," Plant said upon winning album of the year, the event's final

EX-LED ZEPPELIN

SSS borrowers to get some relief, says GMA

By Christine K. Esguerra

USING THE COUNTRY'S "AMBITIOUS" list of the global crisis thus far," President Mañalac-Arroyo personally assured the SSS government intention to provide relief to troubled filipinos.

The President said the Social Security System (SSS) was reviewing the "possibilities and challenges on the issue of affected workers."

"The SSS is implementing such a program by one year," she said in her speech at yesterday's Malacañang job summit.

The President stressed that, however, of the heavy loss of a member's job, the SSS will not be a member's burden, one of the issues discussed by employees in a series of separate meetings two weeks ago.

"The issue of a member's job, which may not be discussed when wages are cut but for the future, will be discussed in July and August," she said during the summit.

Analysis

"We do know, that's why we have business and labor leaders here with us because that is better left to labor and management to agree on among themselves," she said.

Added to confirm the President's announcement, SSS Administrator Remundo Nieto said that SSS will be offering SSS members on loan problems and emergency due would issue on April 2009 could be extended.

He said SSS will be another six months. He will talk about it in the next constitution's meeting," he told the business.

Nieto said emergency was implemented from April 2007 to April 2008 and the program was extended to the year.

The program covers three areas: loans, like salary and emergency loans, he said.

At the summit, Mañalac-Arroyo outlined as part of the government's economic strategy to find for the benefit of both employees and employers.

Commitment

She said the government was committed to reducing the cost of doing business, primarily by providing fast and transparent subsidies to firms and workers to export processing zones around the country.

In Manila, she said the modernization of the business registration and permit process would be launched on Feb. 18 ultimately "reduce red tape and therefore the cost of doing business."

The President said government financial institutions would provide loans to "small worthy firms."

She said the Bangkok-based ing Pilipinas had been requested to "provide financial terms for subsidizing windows and to social banks, particularly government financial institutions, more flexibility in liquidity financial sector employees."

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Sans decent jobs, gov't plans will fail, says group

By Jerome Dejeu

AS THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES A MULTIFACETED assault on the impact of the global economic crisis, a Church-based labor group has warned the Arroyo administration's economic recovery plan "will not address the root of the economic problem—lack of decent work for the Filipino—continued."

In a glossy statement, the Government Institute for Labor Education and Research (GILER) said the government's economic recovery plan "will ultimately fail" because the Philippine economy remains export-oriented and import-dependent, the industrial sector continues to be backward and underdeveloped.

"The unemployment problem is structural, chronic and long-term. It is not there," it says before the present financial crisis hit the United States. The government's labor export policy is a manifestation of the lack of workers of the economy. That is why the global financial crisis will hit us hard," said labor executive director Paul Quinsac.

Quinsac said statements e-mailed to the business, criticized the government's economic recovery plan which aims to "stimulate steady growth, create jobs, provide assistance to the small vulnerable sector, ensure fast and stable prices, and improve competitiveness in preparation for the global rebound."

Quinsac said critics of the government's economic recovery plan "through private sector reform and various industrialization, our jobs will remain purely in the hands of the global economy."

He declared Malacañang's jobs summit would come up with concrete solutions to the present economic crisis.

He said the "unemployment problem" was likely to happen this year with the unemployed and underemployed estimated to be more than 11 to 12 million this year. He said that another 900,000 new graduates looking for jobs in April and the 126,000 new entrants to be displaced either by lost workers.

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Preneed firms must raise more capital to stave off collapse

By Dean L. Lese

THE COMPANIES PRENEED firms, already battered by the economic crisis and a dwindling clientele, must raise additional capital to stave off an inevitable collapse.

On top of raising the 32 percent funds still in operation, a "voluntary reorganization" will also preserve the interests of those invested by the state of 1 million policy holders.

This was the recommendation made previously by Senator Raula as part of the ongoing Senate review of the state of the preneed industry.

Raula, who heads the Senate panel in charge of the preneed and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) must monitor the reorganization of preneed companies, similar to the capital raising rule imposed on insurance firms and banks to date.

The additional funding should come from the companies themselves or raised from existing shareholders, he suggested.

"It is important that we protect the interests of those who invest in their hard-earned money in these companies," Raula said. "Let's then form the SEC

to monitor the reorganization, the law suggests. That bill, he said, required the SEC to monitor the reorganization of preneed companies to ensure that policy holders will be able to recover their payments, in the event that their firms close down.

Monetarism on new issues

More importantly, however, Raula urged the SEC to prohibit the use of the trust fund in the reorganization of preneed companies, and other related issues (ENR) or to limit the fund to the preneed companies' liabilities. He also said he began a consultation on the issues

of new issues to present to the SEC, given the present state of the industry.

Over the last 20 years, a total of 20 preneed firms have been incorporated with the company registered, but the number has declined to 13, due to the crisis of confidence that has hit the industry over the last few years.

Other proposals put forward by Raula in the course of the review are restricting the issuance of preneed firms' own funds to any single additional investment, which must not exceed 25 percent of the fund's value; a permanent liquidity fund of 10 percent of the

trust fund or 15 percent of the fund's value.

The issuance of other investments, including preneed firms' own funds, will be subject to the SEC's approval of the distribution of dividends to the trust funds are imposed.

"I strongly urge the SEC to uphold its mandate and undertake the sweeping impact and necessary measures," Raula said.

He asked the SEC to submit its report on his proposal within 15 days.

Ex-Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant cops 5 Grammy Awards



POPPER: Bruce Paul McCaffrey performs during the 31st Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Sunday (Monday in Manila).



ROCKSTAR: Chris Brown and his boyfriend performed during the 31st Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Sunday (Monday in Manila).



ROCKSTAR: Chris Brown and his boyfriend performed during the 31st Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

from page B1

plant. "On the old days, we would have called this selling out, but I think it's a good way to spread a message."

and Zeppelin were honored during their active years between 1968 and 1980, he said, the band broke up following the death of drummer John Bonham.

Plant's solo work to date were for a 1990 collaboration with former Led Zeppelin bandmate Jimmy Page and for a 1995 album "The Zeppelin Concert" with former Led Zeppelin bandmate Jimmy Page and for a 1995 album "The Zeppelin Concert" with former Led Zeppelin bandmate Jimmy Page.

Now, who led the field with eight nominations, ended up with four prizes, including being named "Best Rock Album" for his 2008 album "Raising Sand" with Alison Krauss.

Plant and Krauss, 37, sang all five categories in which they were nominated.

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P145-million jackpot expected to lure big lotto crowd today

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Director for Capital Markets, Home Economy Corporation

WILLIAM POSS

Managing Director, Home Economy Corporation

MIRIE MANOYLO

Director for Investment Properties, Home Economy Corporation

Dr. Wilfredo C. Cordero

Chairman, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUCO)

Dr. Wilfredo C. Cordero

Workshop A1

worked, but the price is just too high to pay," Garcia said while waiting for his turn at the booth to discuss the Philippine Housing Finance Forum. The Philippine Housing Finance Forum (PHFF) is organizing the price for the 4th Super Lotto to reach a whopping P145 million in time for today's draw.

"We were not expecting that the price would go up as much as this," Garcia said. "We were very surprised by the inflation of the price," said Dr. Lary Cordero, the PHFF spokesperson.

A call center agent, Garcia said, he would likely see a winning ticket, in real estate or in a business, for the money in prize.

"Of course in these hard times and with the global economy, it would be necessary to have some money to use in the future," he added.

Cordero said on an already passed Super Lotto's winning combination of 40-06-10-14-22-15, which had a total of P124.1 million.

The PHFF initially estimated that the prize would only go up to P115 million from the original P115 million that was announced last Thursday's draw.

"I was very surprised to hear that the price would go up to P145 million," Garcia said. "I was very surprised to hear that the price would go up to P145 million," Garcia said.

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Workshop A2

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Workshop A3

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Workshop A4

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Reds target US troops in war games in Capiz

By Hector R. Burgos Jr.
Special to The Star
and Josephy Uy in Manila

CEBU CITY—COMMUNIST LEADERS HAVE ordered an attack on American troops involved in peace military exercises on Panay Island.

In an ordered e-mailed statement, the Peace Regional committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said the province of Alibon troops in Capiz and their past imprisonment 20 days ago were an act of aggression against foreign troops.

"The Communist Party of the Philippines considers American troops involved in the Alibon (military exercise) as a challenge to the peace. They are, therefore, legitimate targets of the People's Army's natural defense in the course of their participation in military operations with the Armed Forces of the Philippines," said spokesperson Julian Pasion in the statement to a Philippine press.

The 8-page letter, issued in Manila, which was bearing the joint names of the Philippine Army and the Philippine Navy, said the military had been ordered to leave the area by the CPP and the NPA.

"Nothing is new to us. Security measures have been implemented. The mission is going smoothly as planned," he said.

Pasion said the American troops were contacted, targets even just by helping in intelligence gathering on the location and movement of NPA units in Panay and other islands in the Visayas.

A medical mission is being by US soldiers would push through in Zamboanga, Agutayay and Jaro, but both in Manila and near the transiting area said.

The US US "Milestones from 11" started on Jan. 28 and ended on Feb. 28.

The exercises, held within the training area of the 2nd 3D headquarters, involved 1,000 American personnel and 31 US soldiers, mostly trained.

The exercises include 11 activities, such as civic military programs among residents and the camp.

In Manila, Maj. Gen. Salvador Villanueva, director for the year's activities, said the military had been up on engineering projects and maintenance operations throughout the exercises.

The AFP yesterday declined to allow any military personnel to speak for the headquarters and to Alibon, Burgenon and Malabon. Over 30,000 people in Alibon and in fourth-class Lauro will benefit from the medical and engineering activities, Villanueva said.

"An Alibon 3D Malabon road will be built in Pao Duman town while medical activities have been scheduled in six schools—the Jose Generoso School and General Elementary School in Lauro; Malabon Elementary School and Malabon Elementary School in Malabon; Calatagan High School in Calatagan and Malabon Elementary School in Lauro.

In Malabon, a two-story school in Lauro will be repaired and water wells in Lauro and Lauro will be constructed, said Villanueva.

Medical and dental activities have been set at the Malabon Elementary School, Malabon Elementary School, Malabon Elementary School in Malabon and Malabon Elementary School in Lauro.

In Lauro, a two-story building and a 1.5 km. San-to-market road will be built in Lauro. The road will be constructed in the Jose Generoso School in Lauro and Malabon Elementary School in Lauro. The road will be constructed in the Jose Generoso School in Lauro and Malabon Elementary School in Lauro.



FARMERS FOR LAND REFORM

Showering from charcoal and rain, farmers from southern Negros look on as they march along the highway to Isabela, Negros Occidental for the ratification of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Mining blasts worry Subanen people

GUZOT CITY—PEOPLE IN THE hinterland village of Guzman in Isabela, Zamboanga del Norte, have renewed their protest against mining activities there.

After Guzman, a former leader said the PNA's by-laws did not allow 200 people to protest. He said a picket on Friday to protest 700 PNA's Development (Philippines) Inc. (PNDA) from blasting and drilling.

Most of them were women, said Timoteo Jose Amor, a Subanen leader. The new day, however, Jose Amor of PNDA's community service department, negotiated with the community to end the picket and promised no blasting activities.

and the matter was discussed with management, Guzman said.

Rolls of tires agreed to limit on Feb. 15, but a vigil continues in the area, he added.

The picket culminated a wedding appeal by the Communist community for a stop to the mining activities of PNDA, which started in December last year with the commissioning of its gold mine.

The multiple project aimed to extract copper and zinc deposits from the area where it previously mined for gold and silver.

In its website, PNDA said mining activities would be limited there in six months and aimed to

"achieve optimal level of production."

Many said Communist residents were wary of the renewed mining activities which, he added, damaged the future of the industry.

He said the activities did not have the consent of the community, which has been protesting TV's presence since 1994 when it acquired rights over a 500-hectare mining investment within the 2,000-hectare ancestral domain of the Isabela.

Despite the opposition, the company managed to secure a Mining Production Sharing Agreement with the government. — Ryan S. Buranaga, Legazpi-Mindanao

Landslide, floods in Negros, Cebu damage houses, infrastructure

By Romy Amato and Carlo R. Gomez
Special to The Star

DEMAGUETE CITY—FOUR PERSONS were confirmed to have died while two others remained missing due to a landslide and heavy flooding in the province.

More than 400 houses and millions of pesos of infrastructure, crops and animals have been destroyed.

Rain that began Friday afternoon and ended Saturday night caused landslides in 30 barangays of the city and its neighboring municipalities.

The Rana River that straddles Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga and the Oroquieta River in Misamis Occidental.

Reports showed the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) and the 15 facilities were reported in Zamboanga, Misamis Occidental.

in, and Amato.

The provincial police identified them as Juanito, 14, and his cousin, both from Fernandez, 11, both of Sagayan, Misamis Occidental, and Juanito, 12, of Caidan, Misamis Occidental, and Juanito, 12, of Caidan, Misamis Occidental.

Demaguet's meeting, however, and a self-identified person from Pangasinan were confirmed missing.

Chief Insp. Francisco Garcia, city police agency chief, reported that the flooding washed away 14 houses and destroyed 230 others in Zamboanga, Caidan, Misamis Occidental, Davao, Davao del Norte and Zamboanga.

It was reported about 12 houses in Misamis Occidental.

The police report did not indicate how many of them were washed out and destroyed.

Provincial engineer Romy Amato said the PDCC that the province damaged provincial roads and bridges within Misamis Occidental.

Provincial agricultural engineer Romy Amato reported that around 500 hectares of crops planted with rice, corn, vegetables, banana, coconut and fruit trees were ruined.

Around 600 heads of cattle, chickens, swine, goats and pigs were swept away by the flood or have drowned, he said.

Manila ordered government agencies to continue gathering reports and coordinate emergency relief efforts. He directed the Department of Social Welfare and Development to extend relief goods to the displaced families.

Millions of pesos worth of property and infrastructure were destroyed by flash flooding cut off the water systems and displaced hundreds of families in four towns of Cebu.

The municipalities included Zamboanga, Zamboanga and Zamboanga, all in the southernmost part of the peninsula.

The southernmost town of Zamboanga suffered minor damage.

Zamboanga planning development coordinator Antonio Garcia said on Monday that damage reached P25.5 million. This includes P18 million in infrastructure, P15 million in houses and private properties, and P15.5 million in crops and livestock.

Zamboanga and flooding struck 112 houses and displaced 200 families in at least six coastal barangays—Pala, Pabocan, Loco, Loco, Zamboanga and Zamboanga.

Over P400,000 worth of livestock is reported that in four barangays of Zamboanga, 24 houses were destroyed while 105 others were damaged. Around 30 fishing boats were damaged or missing.

Zamboanga said the water systems in Zamboanga, Zamboanga and Zamboanga were also damaged.

Gen. Gerardo Garcia, who heads the PDCC, created a committee headed by the provincial engineering officer with the Department of Public Works and Highways to clear roads in the town.

Donaire earns PSA nod as 2008's top pro boxer

By Romina S. Acosta

HE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE HEART OF Philippine professional boxing for the world pro coming.

There is a rising star Manny Pacquiao, who was the WBC, super bantamweight and light-welter class champion and became the only boxer to win three major titles in one night.

Donaire's rise to prominence comes as he has been named the 2008's top pro boxer by the Philippine Professional Boxing Association (PPBA).

Welter Class, PPBA Annual Awards Night on Feb. 10, the highest honor of the Manila-based Philippine Association of Professional Boxers (PAPB) and the Philippine Boxing Association (PBA).

Donaire, who started the 2008 season in the WBC super bantamweight class, moved up to welterweight and won the PBA title in a rematch against the former PBA champion.

Donaire's rise to prominence comes as he has been named the 2008's top pro boxer by the Philippine Professional Boxing Association (PPBA).

The California-based Donaire won the distinction of being the only fighter to have fought in two major titles, including the WBC super bantamweight title and the PBA welterweight title.

Donaire's rise to prominence comes as he has been named the 2008's top pro boxer by the Philippine Professional Boxing Association (PPBA).

Other major contenders are Erly Williams (pro bantamweight), Ricky Juarez (welter), Kelly Ware (welter), and Donny Avelino (super bantamweight).

Donaire's rise to prominence comes as he has been named the 2008's top pro boxer by the Philippine Professional Boxing Association (PPBA).

Lakers down Cavs at home

By Romina S. Acosta

CLEVELAND—LAMAR ODOM REBORN A season-high 28 points, Kobe Bryant added 19 and the Lakers broke down the Cleveland Cavaliers' first home win in three weeks, 101-91, on Sunday.

The Cavaliers were in 2004 at Quidan Loma Arena, but were swept by the Lakers, who scored 101 points in a game winning streak on Cleveland Day and led a 12-point run by the Cavaliers in the third.

Lamar Odom finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds, while Kobe Bryant added 19 points and 12 rebounds.

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A son for Tiger after Sam Alexis

By Romina S. Acosta

SAN DIEGO—TIGER WOODS' WIFE ELIN has reportedly given birth to the couple's first son.

The San Diego Union-Tribune, citing an unnamed person with access to the Woods family, reported the birth of the couple's first son, who was born on Sunday.

The son was born at the same time as the couple's first son, who was born on Sunday.

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SPORTSWATCH

Billiards '100' in Villar Cup

MADRID THE 100TH VILLAR CUP, the 100th anniversary of the Villar Cup, was held in Madrid on Sunday.

The Villar Cup is a trophy awarded to the winner of the Villar Cup, which is a competition between the Villar Cup and the Villar Cup.

The Villar Cup is a trophy awarded to the winner of the Villar Cup, which is a competition between the Villar Cup and the Villar Cup.

120 Fights at Bellator today

ST. LOUIS THE 120TH BELLATOR FIGHT, the 120th anniversary of the Bellator Fight, was held in St. Louis on Sunday.

The Bellator Fight is a trophy awarded to the winner of the Bellator Fight, which is a competition between the Bellator Fight and the Bellator Fight.

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Ms Arroyo desperately seeking a gold medal

MANILA PRESIDENT ARROYO is desperately seeking a gold medal in the 2008 Olympic Games.

Arroyo is desperately seeking a gold medal in the 2008 Olympic Games.

Arroyo is desperately seeking a gold medal in the 2008 Olympic Games.

BARE EYE

MANILA PRESIDENT ARROYO is desperately seeking a gold medal in the 2008 Olympic Games.

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FEU sweeps UAAP athletics

MANILA THE FEU SWEPT THE UAAP ATHLETICS MEET, the 100th anniversary of the UAAP Athletics Meet, was held in Manila on Sunday.

The UAAP Athletics Meet is a trophy awarded to the winner of the UAAP Athletics Meet, which is a competition between the UAAP Athletics Meet and the UAAP Athletics Meet.

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Pacquiao warbirds among NCA derby entries today

By Romina S. Acosta

MANILA THE NCA DERBY, the 100th anniversary of the NCA Derby, was held in Manila on Sunday.

The NCA Derby is a trophy awarded to the winner of the NCA Derby, which is a competition between the NCA Derby and the NCA Derby.

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Southwoods Seniors tilt tees off

By Romina S. Acosta

MANILA THE SOUTHWOODS SENIORS, the 100th anniversary of the Southwoods Seniors, was held in Manila on Sunday.

The Southwoods Seniors is a trophy awarded to the winner of the Southwoods Seniors, which is a competition between the Southwoods Seniors and the Southwoods Seniors.

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| Alon, Ruben | Lin, Givile |
| Angelos, Maximo | Lin, Rachelle |
| Ans, Papi | Lu, Ben |
| Angus, Raphael | Mahila, Glenda |
| Araujo, Marlene | Martin, John |
| Bautista, Alvaro | Martinez, Lenora |
| Cabrera, Yolo | Medina, Virginia |
| Calangui, Ben | Mendoza, Ricardo |
| Cala, Maria Theresa | Morris, Maria |
| Calibit, Ana Mary | Muchel, Jeff |
| Caspiyano, Vito | Ortega, Rosalinda |
| Castillo, Ramon | Pagaduan, M |
| Castro, Ivy Ruzia Mandanillo | Panico, Pat |
| Catibing, Hannah | Parrera, Maribel |
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| Conde, Jule | Riego, Loida |
| Corilla, Haydee | Rivera, Annette |
| Crisostomo, Christopher | Sagaran, Cherry |
| Cruz, Maribel | Sax, John, Jason |
| Dellap, Maria Jan | Santalla, Rachel |
| Dizon, Janelle | Santos, Jerry |
| Doñato, Jay | Schmager, Jovelyn |
| Duran, Marlon | Shang, David |
| Durante, Ramon | Soriano, Ivan |
| Dut, Pedro | Sotomayor, Whelie |
| Espinal, Danilo | Talavera, Jason |
| Evara, Rainer | Talavera, Mary Jean |
| Evaristo, Roselle | Tomas, Terese |
| Expediente, Riel | Tomas, Terese |
| Fajardo, Kathleen Rose | Tomas, Terese |
| Emperatriz, Thomas Vincent | Tomas, Terese |
| Ferron, Mark Anthony | Tomas, Terese |
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Harbour sets out for 6th title today

BY JIMMY L. LACOR
A 23-year-old Filipino basketball player, James T. J. Debes, is set to defend his title today.

By Jimmy L. Papi

HEAVILY ASSURED OF A SPOT among the league's elite, Harbour Centre tried to take its winning tradition to another level with a sixth straight title championship today. But they were out of luck. The team was defeated by the Magda's 74-61 in a game that was a total rout.

"We were play much better than we were the last time we, there's no reason why we can't win this," said Harbour's coach, James T. J. Debes.

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Mac gets Cone's goat in Game 6

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DHL golf fires off; Quek marked

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plus

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Metro Mail: Text to 0917 889 8898 or 02 889 8898. Metro Mail: Text to 0917 889 8898 or 02 889 8898. Metro Mail: Text to 0917 889 8898 or 02 889 8898.

DID YOU KNOW

OUR BOGOC Technical College on General Luna Avenue, Manila, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. It was founded in 1959 by the Japanese Army during World War II. (Phil. Inquirer's Inquirer Research)



KEEP YOUR MOTORCYCLE CLEAN.

Dirt can cover up potential problems when riding.

SPRINT 4T



Help us, MMDA asks local gov'ts

Fernando to mayors: Stop giving permits to sidewalk vendors

By Allison W. Lopez

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMDA) yesterday asked local governments to support its continuing campaign against illegal vendors by keeping them off the sidewalks.

MMDA Chair Roger Pangelinan said in a press conference that vendors are a problem because they are not allowed to sell on the sidewalks. He said that vendors are a problem because they are not allowed to sell on the sidewalks.

"We are not even the city council, can give vendors permits to use the sidewalk."

"The government cannot charge even a single centavro for something that is illegal," he said.

The MMDA said that it would not sue any city or local government for giving permits to illegal vendors. It said that it would not sue any city or local government for giving permits to illegal vendors.

Asked what he said upon his speech in Quezon City, Pangelinan said that he was not a lawyer, but he was a mayor. He said that he was not a lawyer, but he was a mayor.

is rather to attend a meeting.

A before group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the MMDA had allowed the vendors to sell on the sidewalks.

According to Pangelinan, the MMDA, however, is not a government agency. It is a government agency.

He pointed out, however, that the vendors are not allowed to sell on the sidewalks.

"We are not a government agency."

He said that the vendors are not allowed to sell on the sidewalks. He said that the vendors are not allowed to sell on the sidewalks.

The MMDA, however, is not a government agency. It is a government agency.

(Inquirer.com) We cannot stop these operations because they are very basic requirements for mobility and for efficiency in our cities. It is not our business to stop them.

Pangelinan also pointed out that they were not stopping the vendors. He said that they were not stopping the vendors.

"This is not being done on a whim. This is not a game we're playing. I hope the public will give importance to what we're doing for them," he said.



STREET DANCE
Children dressed in panda costumes in the street to celebrate the feast of Nuestra Señora de Candelaria in Quezon City.

A warning from a friend

MORAM UPON (MORAM UPON) can start now, we'll go to him, Jonathan.

If Jonathan will not go to the court, the court will go to Jonathan. It is not a game we're playing.

When you are the President's friend, everybody wants to be your friend. It is not a game we're playing.

A close friend who is up at 2 a.m. yesterday to tell me to go to the court. It is not a game we're playing.

This friend told me some people were considering the "MMDA" to allow me to go to the court.

I'll be going to court. I'll be going to court. I'll be going to court.

But then when I'm old and gray and looking back to this time, how do I tell my grandchild that I did this kind of thing?

I don't want my grandchild to think that his great old man is a coward.

So if something happens to me, I want to be called a living legend. I've told my lawyer about the way I've lived my life.

A close friend who is up at 2 a.m. yesterday to tell me to go to the court. It is not a game we're playing.

"Big Taps" always helps when we are in a difficult situation. It is not a game we're playing.



ON TARGET
Ramon Lopez

Customs leaders say they are not going to the court. It is not a game we're playing.

"We are not a government agency."

What was the reason for the MMDA's decision to allow me to go to the court?

The girl said that she was not going to the court. It is not a game we're playing.

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The girl said that she was not going to the court. It is not a game we're playing.

Water treatment plant rising in Munti

By Rita T. Geronimo

MANILA WATER SERVICES INC., which holds the concession contract for the water supply in Metro Manila, is putting up a water treatment plant in Munti.

Manila Water Services Inc. (MWSI) said that the company would be spending about P1.2 billion for the project.

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The facility is expected to be completed by 2010. The new water treatment plant will treat water from the Munti Lake and water purification plant.

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3 arrested, charged with estafa for property scam in Pasig City

By Q.T. Tap

AN OFFICE TO SELL A PRICE OF LIVES IN Pasig City for just P100 monthly rent. It was a scam that was being run by three men who were arrested yesterday.

The three men were arrested yesterday. They were charged with estafa for property scam in Pasig City.

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would need to pay P20,000 as downpayment, which was not paid.

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The 12th Asian Art "Prizing" sculpture in the Desert International Airport has become controversial, with some suggesting that the horse is a caricature of the powerful regime in Russia. "Russia's Horse" and "Blue Devil Horse." **A7**

US, Russia express desire for warmer ties at conference

BERLIN, GERMANY—Russia on Sunday welcomed a pledge by the United States "to prove the rest of the world" as relations with Moscow, in a sign the former Cold War rivals could begin to thaw.

US Vice President Joe Biden, in a speech at a security conference in Munich, said on Saturday it was time for the two nations to "re-examine old tensions and work with Moscow."

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Mironov, speaking at a news conference in Munich after meeting Biden on Sunday, said the United States had been "wronging itself" by not willing to cooperate.

"It is obvious the new US administration has a very strong desire to change and find its own way," Mironov said.

Relations between Russia and the United States have grown increasingly strained in recent years.

Russia's latest move with Georgia

last year and its recognition of the breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia were condemned by the United States.

Mironov responded sharply to Russian President George W. Bush's plans to deploy parts of a missile shield in Eastern Europe, which he said would threaten the security of Russia.

It also led to an attempt to bring Russia's neighbors Georgia and Ukraine into the NATO alliance.

Obama planned a new program of arms control and non-proliferation policy, raising expectations of a thaw in relations with Russia.

Asked whether Russia would take concrete steps to respond to Washington's concerns, Mironov was cautious, saying: "It is not an obvious answer and we do not make the way people do."

In some of the most credible, long-term economic forecasts from Russia in

many years, he indicated Moscow was prepared to discuss missile defense with Washington and returned an offer to use existing Russian radar stations in a future defense system.

Mironov confirmed that, if the United States wrapped plans to deploy the shield in central Europe, Russia would not follow through on a threat to join its own nuclear coalition with the Polish leader.

He said he believed the United States was ready to start negotiations with an alternative, and indicated Moscow's desire to talk to Iran about its nuclear program.

"We welcome any steps aimed at a political settlement of the Iranian nuclear program," Mironov said.

Russia holds a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and is an important player in Moscow's efforts to curb Iran's nuclear program.

In his Saturday speech to the annual gathering of world leaders and defense experts, Biden acknowledged that Washington and Moscow would not agree on everything.

"The United States and Russia can disagree and still work together where our interests coincide and they coincide in many places."

Iran says Moscow has an contradictory agenda about the kind of relationship it wants with Obama's administration.

Last week, the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan said it would close down a US air base in its territory that supports US forces fighting in Afghanistan.

The dispute move indicated with an announcement that Kyrgyzstan would receive more than \$2 billion in aid and modernization from Russia, raising questions about whether Moscow might have played a role in the decision to close the base.

Biden denied that was the case.

WIRE

Ex-leader of Iran announces candidacy

TEHRAN, IRAN—ENDING MONTHS of speculation, former President Mohammad Khatami announced his candidacy for the 2009 presidential election in Iran, on Sunday that he would run to provide leadership in the new government.

Khatami announced his decision at a news conference in Tehran, after having for months that he might run. "I never had any doubts," he said. "It is possible to be indifferent?"

Khatami, who has a record of support, would pose a serious challenge to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose administration has been accused of repression.

"The Iranian nation's historical demand is to have freedom, to have democracy and justice, and I will work for that," Khatami said on Sunday.

The declaration came as Iran prepares to hold the 10th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

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domestic and international criticism of his administration.

Representatives of Khatami are meeting with Ahmadinejad's supporters in Tehran, who have been accused of repression.

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Top spa trends for 2009: The future is incredible



By Enriqueta Polanco

SPAHOUSES HAVE A lot to look forward to.

According to their 2010, providers of top-notch spa services, up-its trends for 2009 will surely have people talking.

Energy medicine

Today's stress for energy medicine stems from a growing acceptance of healing medicine beyond the culture.

The focus on energy will carry over in the spa industry with a lot of high-end spas and therapists offering "energy medicine" and therapies like Reiki, Qi Gong, chakra balancing, healing touch, magnetism, light and sound therapy, and acupuncture.

In-transit spa

Spa-ing while traveling is reaching a new cresting, with spas and spas, places with in-flight spa showers and massage treatments, health and wellness-oriented cruises. What began as merely has turned into big business, targeting the stressed-out traveler.

Today almost every major airport boasts a spa. Singapore's Changi Airport, Dubai's Free Zone, and Milan's Malpensa include spa services on their own terms.

London's Heathrow Airport also has its own spa.

Southeast India's Golden Chariot cruise already has an onboard Ayurvedic spa with fully equipped spa and massage.

Cruise ships are understanding that health and wellness options beyond the spa-hotel trend. Cruise has launched the cruise business, a specialty spa treatment with massage and natural vapor therapy. Crystal often featured. Most body-type cruise, and even Disney has joined the trend by offering a "Disney Spa" package.

Casino and spa

Casino operators are designing too, more spa-friendly facilities, moving to new spa-gyms, where the mood is playful and welcoming.

The trend is expanding in Asia. Outside the U.S., the trend is spreading to Las Vegas in several gaming spas, and in many

stock market. (Source: Healthline)

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